

Weather Effects

Topic: Atmosphere

Objectives: Recognize effects of weather

Grade Level: all

Time: 10 – 15 minutes

Materials: scavenger hunt cards, small paper bags, flip chart stand, flip chart paper, tape, whistle, writing pads, pens or pencils

Location: all around Piedmont Park

Background: Wind, rain, sunshine, heat and cold are all aspects of weather. These features of weather affect all living things in a variety of ways. Animals must find shelter from wind, rain and cold. Plants seek sufficient sunshine and water. Even rocks are altered by weather. In this scavenger hunt you will use clues to search for things related to weather.

Advance Preparation: Prepare scavenger hunt cards with a list of clues for weather-related things. Some possible clues are

Something wet from rain	Something hiding from the sun
Something windblown	A sign of erosion
Shelter in a storm	Shelter from the wind
A sign of lightening	Shelter from the sun
Something torn by wind	Something that absorbs sunlight
Something that reflects sunlight	Something that collects rain
Something that makes rain splatter	A sign of a damp place
A good place to stay warm	Something moved by rain
Something moved by wind	A wind direction indicator
Something bending toward the sun	A natural rain gauge
A place where the sun never shines	Something that needs wind
Something cracked by weather	An adaptation to heat

Copy the scavenger hunt clues on flip chart paper, leaving room for the students to list next to each clue the things they find.

Before the students begin their search, explain that they must not disturb or harm any animals or pick any living plants. Warn them not to reach under rocks or logs with their bare hands.

Vocabulary:
windblown
erosion
wind
direction
indicator
gauge
adaptation

Procedure:

1. Together with a partner, collect a scavenger hunt card and a paper bag from your teacher or activity leader.
2. Search for as many of the items on the scavenger hunt card as you can find. Draw or describe the items you find that you cannot actually pick up and collect. Put in your bag the items you can collect. Write down where in the park you found each of the items.
3. Return to your teacher or activity leader when you hear the whistle.
4. Show or describe to your classmates what you found for each clue. Explain how each one illustrates the clue. Tape each “find” or write each description in the appropriate place on the flip chart.

Questions to think about and discuss:

1. Judging from what you and your classmates found, what sorts of things are affected most by rain? By wind? By heat and cold?
2. In what ways can animals safeguard themselves in severe weather? How do you think plants protect themselves from adverse weather conditions such as severe cold or drought? What indications of plant or animal adaptations to weather did you find?
3. How do you think that rocks and soil are effected by weather?
4. What adaptations do you make for weather factors?